

KIRKBY LONSDALE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

KIRKBY LONSDALE :

H. MORPHET, PRINTER AND STATIONER, MAIN STREET,

1912.

REPORT.

TO THE KIRKBY LONSDALE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1911.

The recent census returns show a considerable decline in the population of Kirkby Lonsdale. This is partly due to the decadence of local industries causing the young adults of the town to seek work elsewhere, and partly to the continued low birthrate in the town.

The fact that the estimate of the population of the five preceding years was taken from the census returns of 1901 and was therefore in excess of the actual figures accounts for the apparent increase of the death rate for this year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply. This is abundant and so far as we know of excellent quality. The last official analysis was made in 1900—as it is I think wise to have the water supply analysed periodically, it would perhaps be better to submit a sample for analysis again.

Drainage and Sewerage. This is in satisfactory working order—the four new bacterial beds which have been added are now in use, and the clear effluent is discharged into the River Lune and causes no pollution. There have been no new public drains laid down during the year.

Closet Accommodation. There are still a number of privies in use in the district—these are being gradually replaced by water closets. It is hoped that eventually the disposal of excrement by the water carriage system may

become general in the town itself. For the surrounding district the objection to privies is not so great.

Scavenging. There are in the district a number of large ash-pits which are cleared out at too infrequent intervals and which, especially in the hot weather, must be objectionable, and a source of danger to the community. In some cases and with great advantage these have been replaced by small covered receptacles which are frequently cleaned out and which can be efficiently cleansed; a more general adoption of this plan would make for the comfort and well-being of the inhabitants.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year twenty-five general inspections of the District were made by the Sanitary Inspector. As a result of these visits it was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices, but in eleven cases informal notices were served, and in all these the recommendations of the Inspector were complied with.

During the year a special inquiry into the sanitary administration of the District was held by Dr. Reginald Farrar of the Local Government Board.

FOOD.

Milk. The milk supply of the district is brought in from neighbouring farms and is of fair quality. The byres, etc., are periodically inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, and the carrying out of regulations as to lime-washing, etc., are insisted on.

Meat. A detailed inspection of the slaughter-houses in the District was made during the year, and in one case certain improvements in the sanitary surroundings of a slaughter-house were suggested and were carried out to our satisfaction. Dr. Farrar recommended the appointment of a Veterinary Inspector,

who could be called in consultation in the event of any suspicion being aroused as to the state of any animal used for milking or for slaughtering.

HOUSING.

Many of the houses of the poor are ill adapted, owing to lack of accommodation, deficient sunlight, and want of proper through ventilation, for being the homes of young families. The provision of some well equipped cottages, preferably with gardens attached, is urgently needed.

It is hoped that during the year a detailed examination of all cottage property of the District with reference to the requirements of the "Housing and Town Planning Act" of 1909 will be made.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The question of supplying more adequate provision for cases of infectious diseases was considered by the Council during the year. The present Isolation Hospital (Hop House) has been long recognised as being inadequate for dealing with any extensive outbreak of disease. The advisability or otherwise of building an entirely new and well equipped Hospital was considered and a site was generously offered by Dr. Paget-Tomlinson for this purpose. It was, however, thought that for a small community the building and maintaining of a suitable hospital was not advisable, and ultimately an arrangement was come to with the Rural District Council of South Westmorland by which they undertake at a fixed rate per case the isolation and treatment of any infectious diseases which we may not be able to deal with locally.

The old infectious hospital at Hop House will at present be retained, and will probably be of use in isolating occasional cases.

There is no provision for the payment of bacteriological and chemical examinations in the diagnosis of early and obscure cases of infectious disease. This is found in other districts to be a great advantage and would, I think, be well worth the trifling expense that it would entail.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A wide-spread epidemic of measles occurred during the summer months, but it was not deemed expedient to close the Schools as it is unlikely that the closure of Schools does much to limit the spread of this disease.

There were two cases of Scarlet-fever during the year. Both were mild and both were isolated at Hop House where they recovered. One of these cases was brought home ill from Blackpool and was taken straight to Hop House without entering his home.

There continue to be occasional cases of Erysipelas in the town, possibly the ash-pits may account for these, and although as a rule the cases are mild, it must not be forgotten that it may assume a very serious type in the case of puerperal women and that two years ago an outbreak of puerperal fever in Kirkby Lonsdale and the neighbourhood was directly traced to a case of erysipelas in the town.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis which is now compulsorily scheduled among the notifiable diseases, has been for many years notified in Kirkby Lonsdale. One case occurred during the year. All suitable cases are sent to the County Sanatorium at Meathop towards which Institution the Council contributes annually.

T. G. MATHEWS,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1911 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Un-corrected Number	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	of Non-residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 9	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number.
1906	1650	35		21.2	15	9.09	0	1	1.6	15
1907	1650	31		18.78	14	8.48	0	2	3.3	14
1908	1650	23		13.93	11	6.6	0	1	1.6	11
1909	1650	31		18.78	16	9.69	0	3	4.9	16
1910	1650	25		15.15	13	7.8	1	2	3.3	13
1911	1524	26		17.06	18	11.8	2	3	12.0 11.9	16
										10.4

NOTES.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates probably will not be available. The rates should be calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population. In a district in which large Public Institutions for the sick or infirm seriously affect the statistics, the rates in Columns 5 and 13 may be calculated on a nett population, obtained by deducting from the estimated gross population the average number of inmates not belonging to the district in such institutions.

Area of District in acres } 3253 acres.
(exclusive of area covered by water.)

Total population at all ages, 1524..... } At Census
Number of inhabited houses, 345 } of 1911.
Average number of persons per house, 4.4 }

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

		NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox									
Cholera									
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous croup)									
Erysipelas	3					1	2		
Scarlet Fever.....	2			2					2
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Relapsing Fever ..									
Continued Fever ..									
Puerperal Fever ..									
Plague									
Phthisis {	Under Tuber- culosis Regu- lations, 1908	1				1			1
	Under Tuber- culosis Regu- lations, 1911								
	Others.....								
Totals.....	6			2		2	2		3

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation :—

HOP HOUSE, KIRKBY LONSDALE.

Total available beds, 2.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 1.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

Causes of Death. 1	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring within or without the District (a.)									Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-Resi- dents' in In- stitutions in the District. 11
	All ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 & un- der 2 4	2 & un- der 5 5	5 & un- der 15 6	15 & un- der 25 7	25 & un- der 45 8	45 & un- der 65 9	65 & up- wards 10	
All Causes } Certified (c) ..	14	2		1			1	4	6	2
Causes } Uncertified ..	2	1						1		
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough ..										
Diphtheria and Croup ..										
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	1						1			
Tuberculosis Meningitis										
Other Tuberculous Disease										
Rheumatic Fever ..	1			1						
Cancer, malignant disease										
Bronchitis	1							1		
Broncho-Pneumonia ..										
Pneumonia (all other forms)	1							1		
Other diseases of Respi- ratory organs ..	1			1						1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis										
Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
Alcoholism										
Cirrhosis of Liver ..										
Nephritis and Bright's disease	1								1	
Puerperal Fever ..										
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition										
Congenital Debility & Mal- formation, including Premature Birth ..										
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide										
Suicides										
Old Age	4								4	
Other Defined Diseases	7	2						5		1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1	1								
	18	3		2			1	7	5	2

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	{ Certified										3
	{ Uncertified										
{ Small-pox											
{ Chicken-pox											
{ Measles											
{ Scarlet Fever											
{ Diphtheria and Croup											
{ Whooping-cough											
{ Diarrhoea											
{ Enteritis											
{ Tuberculous Meningitis											
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis											
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases											
{ Congenital Malformations											
{ Premature Birth		1				1					1
{ Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus											
{ Atelectasis											
{ Injury at Birth											
{ Erysipelas											
{ Syphilis											
{ Rickets											
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)											
{ Convulsions		2				2					2
{ Gastritis											
{ Laryngitis											
{ Bronchitis											
{ Pneumonia (all forms)											
{ Suffocation, overlying											
{ Other Causes											
		3				3					3

Nett Births { legitimate, 26.
in the {
year { illegitimate, 0.

Nett Deaths { legitimate infants, 3.
in the {
year of { illegitimate infants, 0.

